

Winter 2016/17

Spawning Day is nearly upon us.

Come see the salmon spawning. Visit the **Nanaimo River Hatchery** - 2775 Rugby Road (behind the Cassidy Rest Stop) on November 6th from 10-3:00. Enjoy a Salmon BBQ and take part in the spawning demos, dissections, fish printing and guided stream walk. You won't want to miss this. For more information visit www.nanaimoriverhatchery.ca

If you're at **Bowen Park**, visit the duck pond and side channel and see if you can spot the salmon moving up-stream to spawn. Explore the trails and info boards and learn more about the lifecycle of the salmon.

Despite the rain, nearly 100 kids visited Westwood Lake for a Fish Release and Fishing Derby on Oct 21 hosted by "**Fishing for Fun**". A huge thank you from Mike to Cabelas, the Nanaimo's Men's Centre, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC and community volunteers for helping to make this day such a success. Keep your calendar open for the next fishing event—**Family Fishing Day, in June at Colliery Dam.**



NS3's 4th Annual Spooktacular Science Challenge



on Oct 30 was a great success with around 300 people exploring Bowen Park and our spooky, science stations. Hands on activities included an explosive Chemistry Cauldron, all the ingredients for a witches brew

(brains, eyeballs and newts of course), live snakes and salmon and rats, and of course some slime! The challenge ended with smoke and a bang during an awesome chemistry demonstration by VIU's Peter Diamente. Thanks to everyone who came out and made the day so much fun.



Work Parties in your Neighbourhood

Another successful work party took place on **Protection Island** on Sunday Oct 30 with a tremendous amount of ladder fuel and Daphne removed from the park. Thank you volunteers for all your work.

Volunteers from **TD Financial**, removed an estimated 400 lbs of garbage from the river and ocean shoreline at Beach Estates Park during the Great Shore Line Clean Up Event in September.



Thank you also to Amec Foster Wheeler—who cleaned up Loudon Park, WorkSafeBC & Bill's Place, who've helped clean up Pipers Lagoon this fall & Discover Montessori school who have adopted Beaufort Park to keep clean.

Protection Island



TD Bank Group



Winter 2016/17 p.2

A New Garden at Beban Park ...

It has been just over a year now since **Nanaimo Community Gardens Society (NCGS)** moved their greenhouse operation into the space vacated by the Beban Lawn Bowling group. Volunteers come each week and work together to garden, learn, and share the harvest.

During this first year, the site has undergone quite a change. The artificial turf of the bowling green was removed and filled with sand and gravel; compost and planter boxes were constructed and filled with soil; and most recently a 25' by 75' polycarbonate-sheathed greenhouse has been constructed.



The long-term plan is to turn the whole garden into a classroom, a place where anyone in Nanaimo may come and learn (and in some cases teach) about how we can grow more of our own food. Thank you to all who have helped to make this happen. For



more information visit <http://nanaimocommunitygardens.ca/>

Nanaimo Gets Its First Public Food Forest

On October 18th, 2016, a publicly owned laneway previously overrun by black berry bushes, and littered with old mattresses, candy wraps and even used needles, has been transformed into the first public food forest in Nanaimo. This edible landscape garden called the **South End Community Food Forest** has been created through a collaborative community effort which involved over 200 volunteers and 11 community partner organizations and businesses. For more information on this project visit www.mycdc.coop



SEED HARVEST CELEBRATION for Vancouver Island Beggartick restoration at Third Street Park

As part of the end of a successful first year in re-establishing Vancouver Island Beggartick plants in Third Street Park, local students from NDSS worked with consulting biologists in a seed collection and weeding event on October 20th.



Vancouver Island Beggartick (*Bidens amplissima*) is a Pacific Northwest species, found only in southwestern

British Columbia and northwestern Washington. In British Columbia, it is primarily found on southeast Vancouver Island and in the Lower Mainland, which as of 2008 supported more than 85% of the species known global range.

Beggarticks were last seen in Third Street Park more than 10 years ago. The intent of this restoration project is to re-establish two sustainable populations of 50 or more plants within the park.

There are restoration projects underway in many of our Parks, throughout Nanaimo. While many involve invasive plant management and control, there are opportunities to be involved in native plant and tree planting events. Stream restoration projects are also being planned for the future.

For more information on our restoration projects and sign up as a volunteer, please contact: Deb Beck – Recreation Coordinator
Rob Lawrance – Environmental/Parks Planner.